



# Matthews University

Matthews  
INTERNATIONAL

Elder Davis

## “Did You Know”™ Educational Series



Issue No.110-05

A Publication of Matthews Cremation Division

### **Body Sizes and Plastics**

#### **Body Sizes**

Different body sizes and levels of body fat have dramatic effects on the operation of cremation equipment. A body larger than 300 lbs or with a high level of fat tissue should be treated with caution. It is recommended that you contact the manufacturer of your cremation equipment for any special instructions prior to cremation of large human (or animal) remains.

1. *The cremator must be cool, and this must be the first cremation of the day, or the first cremation within 12 hours.*
2. Turn the afterburner on and preheat the afterchamber for at least 30 minutes or to the minimum preheat temperature.
3. After the preheat, turn on the cremation burner and visually observe the ignition of the container or body.
4. IMMEDIATELY after the case has been ignited, turn the cremation burner off and *leave it off for one full hour*, to allow the body to burn down on its own fuel.
5. It is important that during this necessary one-hour period, when the combustion rate is unusually high, that *you do not attempt to look into the chamber*. If it is imperative to look in, stand away from the door when you open it — combustion gases may come out.
6. One hour later (after the case has burned down on its own), reignite the cremation burner, if needed, to complete the cremation. If the special cycle has reduced the case to a normal size, the timers may be turned back to their normal positions to help complete the cremation.
7. During cremation of a large body, *stack emissions should be periodically checked outside the building* to see whether a pollution condition is being created. If so, turn the cremation burner off for 15 minutes of additional delay. If the pollution condition still exists after the cremation burner is turned off, turn off the afterburner as well. If the pollution condition stops at this time, leave the afterburner off until the equipment begins to cool down. If the condition worsens, turn the afterburner on again.

#### **Plastics**

Plastic or fiberglass caskets are not suitable for cremation and should be refused. Plastics in general should be excluded from cremation as much as possible because of their very high BTU content per pound. In the cremation chamber, plastics combust very rapidly; when plastics in large amounts are cremated, the afterchamber may not be able to fully clean the exhaust gases. Small amounts of plastic generally pose no problem; however, any unnecessary plastic materials should be removed prior to cremation. Nonchlorinated plastics should be requested whenever possible.

*For service, sales or assistance please call (800) 327-2831*

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*•www.matthewscremation.com*

*Questions or comments may be sent to the address listed above*

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